

# QUEST (MARE 264) 2024

## Application Instructions and Logistics Guide



### **QUEST Overview**

*Course dates: May 13-25, 2024*

*Application due: February 20, 2024 at 12PM HST*

QUEST (Quantitative Underwater Ecological Surveying Techniques) is a 2-week field course held annually during the second half of May, and trains students in ecological monitoring of coral reefs using SCUBA. The course takes place at a field camp located near Ke‘ei Beach on the west side of Hawai‘i Island. Students stay in the field for the entire 2 weeks, utilizing SCUBA to learn surveying techniques among the coral reefs along the southern rim of Kealahou Bay.

QUEST is a program of the University of Hawai‘i Marine Option Program (MOP), and earns credit through the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo’s Marine Science Department (course alpha: MARE 264). Twenty-four students are accepted annually for QUEST. These 24 students are organized into 6 teams, each led by a student Team Leader enrolled in Advanced QUEST (MARE 364) and a faculty mentor. Admission into the course is determined by QUEST faculty.

Students in QUEST learn commonly utilized near-shore underwater ecological surveying techniques and then apply them in the field using SCUBA as a research tool. They are introduced to a variety of surveying techniques including visual surveying of fishes, surveying of benthic invertebrates, and photographic surveying of corals and other invertebrates. In addition to training in coral reef surveying techniques, students review the identification of common Hawaiian reef invertebrates, fishes, and seaweeds, and lectures cover basics in experimental design, statistical analysis, data reduction, and graphic representation. Finally, experimental results are presented in both an oral and written report.

Students involved in QUEST must have authorization as at least a UH Scientific Diver-in-Training before the start of the course. A description for getting started on this process will be outlined below, and additional information can be found on the UH Dive Safety Program website at <http://www.hawaii.edu/ehso/diving-safety/>. *All UH Diving Safety Program forms should be submitted as prescribed in their instructions, not to MOP. Non-UH students should contact the main Dive Safety Office at Manoa for instructions on becoming eligible to dive with UH.*

SCUBA tanks and sampling equipment will be provided. Students will need to provide their own diving gear, including a BC, regulator, mask, snorkel, fins, weight belt, compass, depth gauge, timing device, full wetsuit, felt-soled booties, and gloves. In some circumstances, the UH Diving Safety Program may be able to provide SCUBA equipment. Tents and community camp equipment are provided. A detailed packing list can be found at <http://www.uhhmop.hawaii.edu/quest/packlist.shtml>.

### **Purpose of Application Instructions and Logistics Guide**

This document serves as a guide for completing the QUEST application and all supplemental requirements and documents, and enrolling in the class. *Please read the instructions below very carefully to ensure that your application is complete and is submitted properly, and that you have completed all requirements for admission to the course.*

## **Important Contact Information**

QUEST Logistics Coordinator  
& UH Hilo MOP Staff Coordinator  
Matt Connelly  
[uhhmop@hawaii.edu](mailto:uhhmop@hawaii.edu)

QUEST Director  
& UH Hilo MOP Faculty Coordinator  
Lisa Parr  
[lparr@hawaii.edu](mailto:lparr@hawaii.edu)

UH Manoa MOP Coordinator  
Jeff Kuwabara  
[manoamop@hawaii.edu](mailto:manoamop@hawaii.edu)

UH Maui College MOP Coordinator  
& Unit Diving Coordinator  
Donna Brown  
[donnabro@hawaii.edu](mailto:donnabro@hawaii.edu)

UH Hilo Unit Diving Coordinator  
TBA  
[uhhdive@hawaii.edu](mailto:uhhdive@hawaii.edu)

UH Manoa Diving Safety Office  
[uhdsp@hawaii.edu](mailto:uhdsp@hawaii.edu)

## **Eligibility Checklist**

Each of the following requirements must be met in order to be eligible for QUEST. Please note that these requirements may be met after the application deadline. *HOWEVER, this course is very competitive and students who have completed all requirements at the time of application may have priority over students who have not. Additionally, each of these requirements takes a long time to meet, so do not procrastinate, START EARLY!* Please contact the QUEST Logistics Coordinator if you have any questions or concerns about completing these requirements.

- ☐ Students must pass a Species Identification Exam with a score of 80% or higher. Study materials can be found at <http://www.uhhmop.hawaii.edu/quest/species.shtml>, and UH Hilo, UH Manoa, and UH Maui College will hold species ID workshops and exams in the Fall and Spring semesters. Students from other campuses may join the workshops and exams on any of these campuses. Out-of-state students should contact the QUEST Logistics Coordinator to arrange an exam remotely.
- ☐ Students must have a valid SCUBA certification to the Open Water level. Make sure to have a valid certification card on hand to make copies for your application to the UH Diving Safety Program. Digital copies are also often available online from your certifying organization.
- ☐ Students must be authorized as a UH Diver-in-Training (DIT) or UH Scientific Diver. Coordinate with your campus Unit Diving Coordinator (UDC) to complete all requirements for this authorization. Requirements include a medical exam, swim test, and diving skills evaluation. Complete details are available through your UDC or at <https://hilo.hawaii.edu/diving-safety/> (Hilo campus) or <http://www.hawaii.edu/ehso/diver-in-training-process/> (all others). *It is strongly recommended that this process is started during the fall semester.* UH is a member of AAUS and there are options for reciprocity with other AAUS agencies, as well as options for students outside of the UH System.
- ☐ Students must have DAN (Diver's Alert Network) insurance valid through end of QUEST (**Master Plan policy or above**). Details on purchasing can be found on the DAN website at <http://www.diversalernetnetwork.org/insurance/>.

- ☐ (**Optional for MARE 264**) DAN (or other) CPR/First Aid certification, valid through QUEST. NOTE: MARE 364 applicants must have DAN Diving First Aid for Professionals certification, which includes CPR, First Aid, and Oxygen Administration.

- ☐ All students will need to enroll in UH Hilo Summer Session in order to register for the course. Current or recent UH students can complete this requirement after acceptance. *Any non-UH student should apply for UH Hilo Summer Session prior to submitting their QUEST application to ensure eligibility for enrollment at the University. Go to <http://hilo.hawaii.edu/admissions/Apply.php> to submit the free “Non-Degree” application. You may still submit your QUEST application if you have not received an acceptance from UH Admissions. However, acceptance to the course will be contingent upon acceptance to the University.*

### **Application**

Find the online QUEST Application form at <http://uhhmop.hawaii.edu/quest/questapply.shtml>.

Note: If accepted, you will be required to submit additional documentation. Please be prepared to submit your tuition deposit (details below) and copies of your DAN Insurance card (Master level or above) and your medical insurance card.

### **Enrollment Process**

All accepted students must enroll in UH Hilo Summer Session in order to register for the course (except UH Hilo students who are enrolled in the Spring semester preceding the course). To apply, visit the UH Hilo Admissions application page at <http://hilo.hawaii.edu/admissions/Apply.php> and apply as a “Non-Degree” student. Any questions regarding the UH Hilo application process should be directed to the Admissions Office.

**IMPORTANT:** Once accepted to QUEST and UH Hilo, students will be required to submit a completed Tuition Deposit / Intent to Enroll form and send by mail or hand deliver to Matt Connelly, 200 W Kawili St. Hilo, HI 96720. *This document MUST be submitted in hard copy form with an original signature in ink. No photocopies or emailed copies will be accepted. For security purposes, please do not e-mail this form with credit card or personal information filled in.* Details about the tuition deposit can be found in the “QUEST Course and Lab Fees” section below.

Registration for summer classes begins in April. Use MyUH / STAR GPS to enroll in the course.

### **QUEST Course and Lab Fees**

The fees for QUEST consist of tuition, a lab fee, and a student activity fee. Tuition rates are dependent upon your residency status, but the lab fee and student activity fee are set independently. Please refer to the table below to determine the cost for the course based on your residency status. Total cost is calculated by adding your tuition, lab fee, and student activity fee.

<b>Tuition:</b>		<b>Lab fee:</b>	
Resident undergraduate	\$306.00/credit x 3 credits = \$ 918.00	MARE 264	\$700.00
WUE/Pacific Islander	\$373.50/credit x 3 credits = \$1120.50	MARE 364	\$200.00
Non-Resident undergrad	\$441.00/credit x 3 credits = \$1323.00	<b>Student Activity Fee:</b>	\$35.00

**Deposit information: Please read carefully in order to understand the policy on refunding deposits.**

Upon acceptance to the course, you will be asked to submit a tuition deposit equal in amount to your lab fee. *This does NOT increase total cost for the course. Your deposit amount will be deducted from your total amount due for the course.* \$700 is due upon acceptance to the course. Upon submission of the deposit form, \$250 is *immediately* non-refundable. \$500 is non-refundable after March 20 at noon. \$700 is non-refundable after April 10 at noon. The Tuition Deposit / Intent to Enroll form can be found at <http://uhhmop.hawaii.edu/quest/questapply.shtml>.

**IMPORTANT:** *This form MUST be submitted in hard copy form with an original signature in ink. No photocopies or e-mailed copies will be accepted. For security purposes, please do not e-mail this form with credit card or personal information filled in.*

The final due date for all course fees is set by the UH Hilo Summer Session Office, and is usually in mid-April. However, students will not be automatically removed from the course for non-payment by this date (which is relevant for students who have applied for scholarships).

### **Transportation**

The entire course will take place at Halau Maluhia in Ke‘ei, South Kona. The road leading to the site is private with a locked gate; therefore, all transportation to the site needs to be arranged through the QUEST Logistics Coordinator. Please refer to the instructions below to plan your transportation if accepted to the course.

Off-island students are responsible for their own flight arrangements via Kona airport (KOA). QUEST staff will have a shuttle from the airport to camp on Monday, May 13 at 10:15AM. Students will be returned to the airport on Saturday, May 25 before 10:00AM. Students arriving from the mainland may be subject to a different schedule due to limited flight options. Please coordinate with the QUEST Logistics Coordinator to arrange transportation to the field site if you cannot find a flight that arrives in time to catch the shuttle.

UH Hilo students will be transported to the site via University vans, which will depart from campus at 8AM on Monday, May 13. Vans will return students to campus on Saturday, May 25, but students will be expected to assist in cleaning and putting away equipment. Expect to be finished by 6PM.

**Please contact the QUEST Logistic Coordinator if you have any questions about the information contained in this application instruction guide.**